The Rhumb Line

Spring/Summer 2025 **Number 101**

Learning to draw Dee, Mr. Magee's dog. Mr. Magee & Dee make appearances in all of Chris Van Dusen's books—how many Dees can you find in the exhibit? In the entire museum?

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Maine Maritime Museum
243 Washington Street, Bath, Maine 04530
MaineMaritimeMuseum.org

A Place of Wonder

Photo credit: Tim Greenway

by Christopher Timm
Executive Director

So many of us think the coast of Maine is a special place—a place of wonder where the land and sea meet in a way that feels both timeless and personal. It's a landscape of rugged beauty, changing tides, and a sense of possibility. But *why* do we feel that way? For some, it's the result of moments spent here—a boating trip with grandparents, skipping stones on a quiet cove, or discovering a hidden beach on a foggy morning. Maine's coast is more than a place; it's an experience that becomes part of who we are.

Maine has always had an outsized influence on literature, particularly stories for younger audiences. All sorts of characters live or have been imagined along the Maine coast—Wilbur and Charlotte, Sal and Little Bear. Beautiful Blackbird. Roz. The little island. The little fisherman. Or Miss Rumphius, who reminds us to "do something to make the world more beautiful."

For the last 25 years, Chris Van Dusen has done just that. He has created entire worlds—places that feel both magical and familiar—for us to share with our children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces. And these are recognizably Maine stories. An island village that shelters shipwrecked animals from their circus owner (*The Circus Ship*), the town that learns that a lake monster is in fact no monster at all (*Hattie & Hudson*). An island community that when a truck gets stuck in the muck, simply exchanges cars with their neighbors (*Big Truck Little Island*). These are stories rooted in the values, humor, and resourcefulness that define life on the coast.

Our newest exhibit, *Upon That Isle in Maine: The Story & Works of Chris Van Dusen*, recognizes the profound impact Chris' work has had on all of us—from those that are read to, to those doing the reading. Visitors step inside his imagined world, from a re-creation of his studio to never-before-seen sketches and paintings that reveal the extraordinary effort behind every single page. The exhibit invites exploration and play and, at its heart, it is a celebration of the power of imagination and storytelling.

Museum visitors of all ages have enjoyed immersing themselves in the whimsical world of Chris Van Dusen that was built for this interactive, multi-media experience.

But *Upon That Isle* is also a recognition of how the stories we tell—whether in books, film, or art—shape our understanding of a place. Chris' Maine is one of generosity, curiosity, and adventure, and for many children, it may be their first introduction to this part of the world. Stories have the power to define a place in our minds before we ever set foot there. And so, in celebrating Chris Van Dusen's worlds, we also acknowledge the storytellers before him, and the ones still to come—those who will continue to bring the Maine coast to life, in all its wonder.

Upcoming Exhibit

Re|Sounding

November 15, 2025 – November 30, 2027

Re|Sounding stems from the maritime process of "sounding," or measuring depth beneath a vessel as a form of navigation. With this exhibit, Maine Maritime Museum is dedicated to re-measuring our institutional understanding of Maine's maritime history by centering Black and Indigenous perspectives. Directed by a group of humanities scholars and community leaders in collaboration with museum curators, this exhibit will examine Wabanaki and Black maritime history and culture. With a humble acknowledgment of work that lies ahead, *Re|Sounding* also marks a moment of institutional reflection and a commitment to responsibly and inclusively collecting, exhibiting, and sharing Maine's maritime stories.

Maine Maritime Museum connects people to the past, present, and future of Maine's waterways and their global reach.

Announcing: Flight Deck Beer & Pizza Garden at Maine Maritime Museum

Each year, we look forward to the start of the season for so many reasons: Donnell House has reopened, guided tours have restarted, flags raised on *Wyoming, Merrymeeting,* and *Mary E* will be back dockside, and so much more. But something extra special is in the works for 2025: we are thrilled to announce the launch of the Flight Deck Pizza & Beer Garden, a new seasonal waterfront experience right here in the Percy & Small Shipyard featuring craft beer, wood-fired pizza, and stunning views of the Kennebec River.

The Pizza & Beer Garden will be a vibrant, family-friendly destination where families of all ages can make their visit a full day-experience with wood-fired pizzas, craft beer and wine, and fresh air on the water, nestled between the *Wyoming* evocation and the awesome Kennebec River.

"This is more than just great beer and pizza—it's about creating a sense of place," said Nate Wildes, Managing Partner of Flight Deck Brewing. "Building a new and uniquely Maine experience on the waterfront of the Kennebec River, in partnership with Maine Maritime Museum, couldn't be a better vision for Flight Deck's second location."

A Fresh, Flavorful, Waterfront Experience

Visitors will enjoy:

- Family-friendly seating and lawn games on the waterfront of the museum property.
- Craft beer, wine, canned cocktails, and non-alcoholic beverages from Flight Deck Brewing.

- Handmade wood-fired pizzas cooked on site, with creative and locally inspired toppings. Salads, snacks, and kid-friendly options will also be available.
- Covered seating, right on the waterfront for optimal scenic views.
- Ambient lighting, interpretive signage, and easy access to the museum grounds and cruises aboard *Merrymeeting*.

The collaboration reflects both organizations' shared commitment to community, culture, and connectivity.

"We want visitors and members to make the most of their time here, and that means having a place to relax, enjoy a great meal, and take in the riverfront," said Chris Timm, Executive Director of Maine Maritime Museum. "Whether you're here with your family for *Upon That Isle in Maine: The Story & Works of Chris Van Dusen*, hopping on a boat tour, or just looking for a beautiful spot on the water to gather with friends, we're creating a space that's relaxed, beautiful, and uniquely Maine."

The Pizza & Beer Garden will be open to museum visitors for lunch, and open to the general public (no admission required) on select summer evenings. The Garden will operate June through September, with an exact schedule to be announced.

Rangeley Boats: A Closer Look

by Catherine Cyr
Associate Curator

The Rangeley Lakes Guide Boat is one of the most recognizable boat forms to be invented in Maine.

First built in 1869 for the Oquossoc Angling Association and its members, the form became popular as the Rangeley Lakes region gained traction with sportsmen. The boat's form was ideal for fly fishing: the flat bottom made it less prone to tipping and suitable for navigating both shallow and rough waters, while the length, typically 17 feet, easily accommodated two individuals—a guide and a sportsman.

The most well-known builder of the Rangeley Lakes Guide Boat was Charles W. Barrett, whose boatshop was active between 1880 and 1939. Barrett introduced two important features to the form which were crucial to enhancing the experience for guides and sportsmen alike when fishing. Rounded oarlocks allowed guides to quickly drop the oars and help land a fish, while the round seat made rowing easier by forcing sportsmen to sit in the middle of the boat. The boat's reputation quickly grew, and by the early twentieth century, it could be seen on Maine waterways far beyond Rangeley.

Rangeley Lakes Guide Boat built by Charles W. Barrett, modified by Herbert N. Ellis, ca. 1915, modified post-1930. 14' 10" length, 3' 10" beam. Museum Purchase, 97.030.

Photograph of Rangeley Boats near Rangeley Lakes, likely photographed by member of the Moses Family, ca. 1890–1900. Gift of Helen Moses Shaugnessy, 68.2515.

In the 1930s, the boat form was adapted to accommodate a new technology: outboard motors. While some older boats were modified, Herbert N. Ellis created multiple new models with transom sterns. Ellis apprenticed under members of the Barrett family and was the primary Rangeley Lakes Guide Boat builder from the late 1930s to the mid-1950s.

The Rangeley Lakes Guide Boat pictured here, and on display in our exhibition *Upta Camp*, is a prime example of the early altered models. Built by Barrett around 1915, the boat originally sported the classic, double-ended shape, like those in the nearby turn-of-the-century photograph. A couple of decades later, it was modified by Ellis for outboard motor use. This was accomplished by sawing off the pointed stern and installing a flat transom, reducing the length from 17 feet to 14 feet, 10 inches. Other surviving examples of modified Rangeley Lakes Guide Boats maintain their length but appear to have required more extensive reconstruction, including removing and adding new frames.

Today, Rangeley Lakes Guide Boats are still in use at some sporting camps in the area. They remain a vital link to the history and success of the Rangeley Lakes Region as a sporting destination.

Rhumb Line

A line on the earth's surface which intersects all meridians and parallels of latitude at the same angle. A line of constant course is a rhumb line.

Green Teens

by Katie Conroy
Education & Community Programs Manager

What happens when you bring six high school students together to research and communicate a local environmental issue in just one month? That is the foundation of our Green Teens high school internship. Now in its second cohort of students, this internship expands on our Sense of Place curriculum and invites local students to explore the environmental issues that hit home, sometimes literally. From the warming waters of the Gulf of Maine and its impacts on local communities, to the ways aquaculture technology could safely produce food for millions of Mainers, the interns tackle these issues from start to finish. Throw in mentors from the field *and* learning to write a resume, and you have a month packed tighter than a can of tinned fish.

The Green Teens use the museum exhibits to think about visual storytelling and how that intersects with communicating environmental issues via social media platforms. The program is generously supported by John D. Zittel.

Green Teens is the brainchild of Sarah Timm, Director of Education, and was galvanized by our search to find new ways to interact with our high school community and the topics that interest them the most. But why offer an environmentally focused internship at a *maritime museum?* Maine's maritime culture is deeply rooted in the environment, and our economy relies heavily on our working waterfront and the use of our natural resources. The environmental issues we face today will become the environmental history we learn about tomorrow. Our Green Teens are interested in learning how they can be a part of this story. By introducing the skills of communication, resume writing, and project management paired with mentors from the field that share knowledge in career pathways and real local issues, this internship is designed to set these students up for success as they navigate their education and early careers.

Our 2025 Green Teen Cohort. Top, left to right: Caiden, Autumn, Kaliste, Ana-Lia. Bottom, left to right: Lily and Emma.

Interdisciplinary by design, this internship mirrors the way Maine Maritime Museum thinks about maritime stories. Offering students an authentic opportunity to think critically about a real issue in their community from multiple perspectives reveals the importance of collaboration in approaching the complexity of these issues. They can see how their work matters. And it is working. We have seen our application pool double from the first cohort to the second, and our participants are coming from more schools. It has been an exciting ride to get this internship off the ground, and it will be even more exciting to see where it goes from here.

In the Boatshop

by Kurt Spiridakis
Director of Boatbuilding

Home School Classes

The Boatshop is excited to announce new woodworking and boatbuilding programming for homeschooled students! For 30 years, we've partnered with area public schools in a year-long curriculum, and the local homeschool community took note. Energized by the leadership of boatbuilding educator Dan Shea and buoyed by the news of successful partnerships in similar programs elsewhere, we launched a series of eight-hour sessions over four weeks focusing on the greatest hits from Discovery Boatbuilding. Our first three sessions, each accommodating 10 students, have sold out, and based on the interest from students and families, we intend to offer a longer boatbuilding session starting in April. Students hail from as far south as Yarmouth, and as far north as Cushing. This wide geographic spread, along with all available student slots filling up thus far, gives us confidence we have developed the basics of a meaningful and much-needed program.

Boatbuilding Educator Dan Shea with our newest homeschool students in the Boatshop.

Bateaux Kits

In 1755, Benedict Arnold led an expedition up the Kennebec River and through Maine's lakes and rivers to Quebec City. George Washington sent Arnold and his convoy to prevent British forces from establishing a fortress in Quebec City, thereby creating a second front for the American Revolution. For this journey, Arnold had over 200 bateaux commissioned. The Arnold Expedition Historical Society, based in Pittston—where the bateaux were built—have celebrations planned for the 250th anniversary this year, including the building of multiple bateaux along Arnold's historic route.

The Boatshop was commissioned to produce "kits" based on the design of local shipwright Rob Stevens, and we are doing so using primarily locally sourced and historically accurate rough-sawn lumber, all milled onsite by the museum sawmill. The kits provide all the materials for potential builders, so they can get right to work without having to source random and somewhat exotic sizes of lumber, none of which are typically available at a big box store.

The process of designing a bateaux kit—there is always something new and different happening in the Boatshop. Stop by to see what we're working on!

Sawmill Milestone

We're quite busy, as usual, getting out lumber for all our various projects: Discovery Boatbuilding boats, sweepstakes boats, bateaux kits, shop projects, and interdepartmental lumber needs (as seen in *Upta Camp* and *Upon That Isle in Maine*). Around February 2025, we passed the 10,000-board-foot mark for "free and foraged" lumber sawn since the mill was donated by Woolwich resident Fred Kahrl in 2019. A board foot is equal to a piece of wood 1 inch thick, 1 inch wide, and 1 foot long. The significance of the 10,000-board-foot number is a testament to the volume of logs donated to the museum, and the countless hours contributed by volunteers and staff to then go and get those logs. Each expedition often turns into a physics equation—how to get that heavy thing over, under, and around obstacles unscathed, and safely onto the museum's trailer? Each trip to a town lawn, suburban backyard, or coastal forest is an exercise in patience, luck, humility, and satisfaction, knowing this tree will eventually contribute to the greater good of a shared boatbuilding experience.

Access to heavy machinery is always a plus!

Business Support Program

The museum is extremely grateful for the support of local businesses giving at our Corporate Sponsor levels (listed below). As we head into another visitor-filled season, we are reminded just how important their philanthropy is—our exhibitions, education initiatives, programs, and Boatshop activities are thriving and robust due to their generosity. So, please thank them as you visit their establishments this season!

As of February 21, 2025

Figurehead
Bath Savings Institution

Mainsail
General Dynamic–Bath Iron Works
The Reny Charitable Foundation

Capstan
Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting Co., LLC
Central Maine Power Company
Crooker Construction LLC
Diversified Communications
Reed & Reed, Inc.

Mast
A Morning In Maine
A.G.A. Correa & Son
Anna's Water's Edge Restaurant
Artforms, Inc.
Bamforth Marine
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
Bill Dodge Auto Group
Bixby & Co.
Blue Elephant Events & Catering
Browne Trading Company
Byrnes' Irish Pub
Carl A. Bickford, Inc.
Churchill Events
Data Defined
Derecktor Robinhood
The Dolphin Marina & Restaurant
Epifanes North America
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott - Brunswick Freeport
G&E Roofing Co., Inc.
Georgia Pump, Inc.
Hammond Lumber
Hampton Inn Bath
Harbour Towne Inn
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Highland Green
The Highlands
Island Treasure Toys
John Ater Painting, Inc.
John G. Morse & Sons, LLC
KaveMann Toys & Collectibles
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The Landing School
Lie-Nielsen Toolworks
Lisa-Marie's Made in Maine
Mae's Cafe & Bakery
Maine Coast Fishermen's Association
Maine Marine Rigging, LLC.
Maine Oyster Company
Meadow Park Development Corp.
Mid Coast Hospital
Midcoast Federal Credit Union
Montsweag Restaurant
The Music Man DJ Service
New England Tent and Awning
Norway Savings Bank
Now You're Cooking
OystHERS Raw Bar & Bubbly
Piper Shores
Points East
Residence Inn Bath/Brunswick
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Sabre Yachts & Back Cove Yachts
Schooner *Eastwind*
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Thomas Yacht
Thomaston Place Auction Galleries, Inc.
Vigilant Capital Management, LLC

Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker Leadership Society Roll

Anonymous
Mary Pardee Allison
John V. Baketel
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Bruce C. Bickford
Maxine Walker Boyd
Louise M. Boyer
Bruce R. Burden
Charles E. Burden, M.D.
Lewis P. Cabot
Stephen and Joanne Caulfield
Jane W. Chapin
William S. Danforth
Joanne C. Dauphinee
Edward R. Donohoe
Frances Donohoe
Irving and Cathleen Esleeck
Kristin L. Fletcher
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Sara T. Graves
Eastham Guild, Jr. and Mary Guild
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Kenneth D. Kramer
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John H. MacFadyen and Mary-Esther E. MacFadyen
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John R. Newell
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Thatcher B. Pinkham, Jr.
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Frank C. Rodway
Mrs. Eleanor C. Rogers
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Avice Meeker Sewall
Harold M. Sewall
Marion Dean Shaw
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David L. Steed and Anne L. Morris
Ferdinand Thun
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Elena D. Vandervoort
Constance and William Wagner *in honor of the Dearborn and Hopkins Families*
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Thelma Powers Walker
Dorothy L. Weber
John R. Webster
Charles D. Whittier II
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Alan and Mary Wilson
Lewis E. Wilson
Betty F. Winterhalder
Loren and J. B. Wright
Ruth and Robert Zollinger

Honor/Memorial Gifts

(3/14/2024 – 02/20/2025)

In Honor of Ray E. Becker
Michael and Meg Flack

In Honor of Laura Burns
Leslie and Richard Orne

In Honor of Nathaniel "Nick" Hyde, M.D.
Mr. Paul Friedmann

In Honor of Daniel W. Shea Jr.
Samuel Moore

In Memory of Carol Cusimano Bernier
Robert Bernier

In Memory of Constance E. Barras
William and Suzanne Bushnell

In Memory of Charles E. Burden, M.D.
Mabel Gerquest
Rebecca Roche
Nancy Wilkes

In Memory of Ellen Conathan Tonkin
Nancy Arnold
Janet and Ann Nugent

In Memory of John P. Cotton
Francis and Gwendolyn Zaborowski

In Memory of James Drake
Jane and Edward Harris

In Memory of Terrance Geaghan
Ralph Snow

In Memory of Jane P. Morse
Frances and William Bowen

In Memory of Louis A. "Sandy" Peterson
Samuel Carr

In Memory of Barbara A. Potter
Sarah Halpin

In Memory of William A. Stoops
The Foreside Foundation

In Memory of Marcia B. Willock
Michael Silverman

A Most Impactful Gift: Planned Giving Options

by Rebecca Roche
Chief Advancement Officer

Imagine you're opening the mail at the museum where you work. This task might sound dull, but I assure you, it's a moment of unbridled optimism for a fundraiser. Out slips a check that a kind member, volunteer, or donor has left you in their estate, leaving the museum an incredible piece of their legacy.

Sam Skolfield II entering a storm, Thomas Willis, circa 1890, oil and silk on canvas, 2023.008, gift of Ferdinand Thun in memory of Weston Clement.

I've been lucky to experience this moment several times during my career, and it is always a moment in which to be thankful for the person who cared so deeply about this place that they wanted to invest in it even after they were no longer around to experience it themselves—a selfless act to improve the museum for generations to come.

Ferdinand Thun was a soft-spoken man who also understood how important planned gifts were. When he died in 2023 at the age of 89, he left legacy gifts to more than one nonprofit, including Maine Maritime Museum. Here, he made both a cash bequest and the donation of a gorgeous portrait of the *Sam Skolfield II* by Thomas Willis. Ferd was a sailor himself and cherished the painting that his grandfather had passed down to him, donating it in memory of his good friend Weston Clement.

Knowing just how important and impactful planned gifts can be, I've made one myself, and it couldn't have been easier. I chose to make the museum a beneficiary of my retirement account, an act that just took a few clicks on the site where I manage my plan. It's just as easy to do for any 401(k), 403(b), or IRA.

And there are many more options for making a planned gift, including:

- ✓ Gifts of stock
- ✓ Real estate
- ✓ Adding your favorite nonprofits to your will, including through a codicil (check out FreeWill.com if you don't have a will)
- ✓ Life insurance beneficiary
- ✓ Successor to your donor-advised fund

There are even options, such as charitable remainder unitrusts and charitable gift annuities, that can provide income to you or a loved one. If you'd like to learn more about these or other planned giving options, contact me at *roche@maritimeme.org* or 207-443-1316 ext. 327. I can also connect you with financial professionals who can make recommendations for your unique financial situation, maximizing the tax benefits for your heirs and estate.

Already made a planned gift to the museum in your estate? Let us know, so we can add you as a member of the Capt. W. J. Parker Leadership Society. You'll receive exclusive invitations to future museum events.

Even if you're not interested in including the museum in your estate plans, please consider including a nonprofit you care about. Your gift, your legacy, can truly be transformative.

Cruise Aboard *Merrymeeting*

Board *Merrymeeting* for an up-close look at some of Maine's most iconic lighthouses and abundant wildlife. Coffee, beverages, beer, wine, and snacks are available to purchase. All cruise tickets include two days of admission to the museum. Accessibility questions? We're happy to help.

Cruise Schedule	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Lighthouse & Nature Cruise (1 hr.)	12 2	12 2	12 2	12 2	12 2	12 2	12 2
Lighthouse & Nature Cruise (2 hrs. M/W or 3 hrs. T/Th)	3:30	3:30	3:30	3:30			
The Bath Iron Works Story: By Land and Sea (2.5 hrs.)	12:30	12:30	12:30	12:30	12:30		

Merrymeeting got a much-needed upgrade to the pilot house over the winter.

Scenic days like this along the coast of Maine never fail to disappoint.

OystHERS Sea Farm joined us in 2024 on our very first oyster tasting cruises.

The Burnt Island Lighthouse Adventure is our only cruise where passengers disembark and explore a historic lighthouse on a pristine, uninhabited island—limited spots are available!

Specialty Cruises, 3:30 pm

Burnt Island Lighthouse Adventure (4 hours)
Saturdays, May 24, 31, June 7, 14
Sundays, June 8, 15, 22, July 13, 20, August 10, 17, 24

Oyster Tasting Cruise (2 hours)
Sundays, May 25, June 29, July 27, August 31, September 14, 21, 28, October 12, 19, 26

Lighthouse Lovers Cruise (4 hours)
Saturdays, June 21–August 30

Six Rivers of Merrymeeting Bay Cruise (3 hours)
Sundays, May 18, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5

Upcoming Events

Story Time with Splash, the Friendly Sea Monster

May 27, June 17, July 15*, August 19, September 9*, & October 7
10:00–10:30 am | *With special guest Chris Van Dusen
FREE, preregistration required
Plus: All aboard the *Merrymeeting* for one of our special Mini Mariners 30-minute cruises at 11:00 am!

Headin' Upta Camp: Exploring the History of Maine's Sporting and Leisure Camps

Zoom Lecture with Catherine Cyr, Associate Curator
Thursday, June 12 | 6:00–7:00 pm
FREE, preregistration required

Explorers Sketchbooks with Watercolor and Ink with Claire Loon Baldwin (Sold Out)

Saturday, June 21 | 10:00 am–1:00 pm
$45, members receive a 20% discount

Family Illustrating & Storytelling Workshop with Chris Van Dusen

Sunday, August 10 | 1:30–2:30 pm
$16, all ages, members receive 20% discount

Drop-In LEGO Workshop with Colby Adolphsen

Wednesday, August 13 & November 5 | 3:00–4:00 pm
FREE, preregistration required

The Art of Science: Illustration Workshop with Karen Talbot

Saturday, September 10 | 10:00 am–1:00 pm
$55 (including supplies), members receive a 20% discount

Wine Pull Dream Team at the 2024 Annual Gala: Kim Cullen, Meredith McGuire, Betsy Lane, and Martha Akeley.

Our Favorite Annual Events

May 17 | Community Day

The official start of the season with free admission, discounted cruises, plus demonstrations, guided tours, & more from 10:00 am–2:00 pm! Plus, hop on Charlie the Trolley and catch even more fun with Spring into Summer, presented by Main Street Bath.

July 11 | Maine Maritime Museum Annual Gala, 5:00–10:00 pm

Join us under the stars in the Percy & Small Shipyard for one incredible evening to celebrate Maine Maritime Museum and support everything we've mentioned in this issue & beyond! This is THE event of the summer and, as always, will feature live and silent auctions, music, dancing, dinner by Churchill Events, and a few surprises.

September 13 | Pints on the Pier, 4:00–7:00 pm

Our eighth annual beer fest and concert, with food trucks, lawn games, and a beautiful view of the sun setting over the Kennebec.

Joe K. Walsh & Friends at last year's Pints on the Pier. We're lining up even more food trucks, beverage vendors, and games for 2025. Tickets are on sale now!

Our education team, lead by Sarah Timm, debuted a new after-hours walking tour last fall titled, *Dead Reckoning: Shipyard Death & Disturbances.* It was a huge hit, selling out every single night. While the 2025 schedule hasn't been released yet, subscribe to *The Lookout,* our biweekly e-newsletter, to be the first to hear about the event lineup!

Volunteers

Joan Knight, Volunteer Chair, with her husband and fellow volunteer Bruce Knight received their 10-year anniversary pin at last fall's Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

You call? We come! Trustee John Morse and volunteer Bob Mansfield help secure donated wood for us to process in our sawmill. Read more on page 4.

Ron Berry telling stories and answering questions on the trolley as part of *The Bath Iron Works Story: By Land and Sea* tour.

Over the winter, maintenance volunteers Dick Thomas and Jonathan St. Mary helped bring the Circus Ship to life!

Our cornhole winners from the 2024 Volunteer Picnic. Left to right: Percy & Small Guides Bill Bushnell and Ellen Whiting, *Bath Iron Works Story: By Land and Sea* Tour Guide Baer Connard, and curatorial volunteer Peter Poulin.

Re|Sounding: Measuring the Depth of Maine's Maritime History

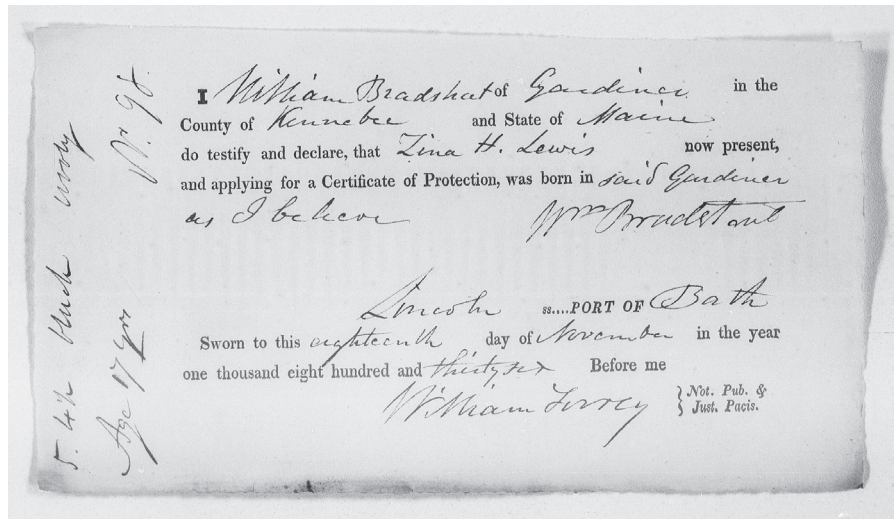
by Sarah Timm
Director of Education

In 1871, Zina Lewis built and launched his first vessel in Gardiner, Maine. He piloted the 48-foot skow sloop (a type of sailing barge), named *Dreadnaught*, to ship goods between Gardiner, Bath, and Portland. Lewis is the only Black captain known to have worked on the Kennebec River in the nineteenth century; twelve different local newspaper articles recount his "good grit" and skill navigating the river and open waters. On Friday, December 11, 1885, the *Bath Daily Record* published a harrowing account of Lewis's near-shipwreck close to the mouth of the Kennebec River. The newspaper account, told through Captain Lewis's own words, is a remarkable piece of surviving evidence recognizing the reputable skills of a local Black mariner. Zina was born into a maritime family; his father, Thomas Lewis, also served on Maine-built merchant vessels. These same newspapers, however, when reporting on the festivities of his daughter's 21st birthday, framed his family within prejudiced language. The story of Lewis and his family as told through local newspapers reflects the two truths lived by many Black mariners in New England; one could find success and freedom within the maritime trades but never truly shed society's racialized stereotypes.

Captain Zina Lewis's story has been recovered through the archival research of local scholars, Korinne Tanzer and Jamey Tanzer, whose collective work seeks to broaden our understanding of Maine's maritime past to include a more diverse landscape of peoples that better reflect Maine's global network during its Age of Sail. Korinne and Jamey are two of over 30 scholars, artists, and community leaders that Maine Maritime Museum is working in collaboration to develop a new exhibit centering Black and Wabanaki maritime history and culture.

Re|Sounding, opening November 15, 2025, will feature recently uncovered archival documents and historic artifacts that demonstrate ways in which Maine's maritime networks provided freedom and caused harm to Black and Wabanaki communities. Immersed throughout the exhibit will be works by contemporary Black and Wabanaki artists that invite dialogue on how these histories continue to shape our collective present and provide avenues of understanding. All will be presented within a thoughtfully composed soundscape paying homage to traditions of musical and oral storytelling that worked to preserve Black and Wabanaki culture through the generations.

To take a "sounding" is to measure the depth of water below your vessel. It is to know where you are, in order to understand how to navigate forward. With *Re|Sounding*, Maine Maritime Museum is moving forward with its commitment to connect audiences with the full depth of Maine's waterways, past, present, and future.



I William Bradshaw of Gardiner in the
County of Kennebec and State of Maine
do testify and declare, that Zina H. Lewis now present,
and applying for a Certificate of Protection, was born in said Gardiner
as I believe
Wm Bradshaw

Lincoln ss.....PORT OF Bath
Sworn to this eighteenth day of November in the year
one thousand eight hundred and thirty six Before me
William Torrey Not. Pub. & Just. Pacis.

Captain Zina Lewis's Protections Certificate issued to prove he was born in Kennebec County. Protection Certificates were often issued to protect American sailors from being impressed into service by foreign vessels. For Black mariners in New England, they served a secondary purpose of proving their free-born status. Source: National Archives and Records Administration.

Exhibit Advisory Committee

Jordia Benjamin, *Executive Director, Indigo Arts Alliance*

Dr. Meadow Dibble, *Founder and Executive Director, Atlantic Black Box*

Dr. Kate McMahon, *Historian of Global Slavery, Center for the Study of Global Slavery, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture*

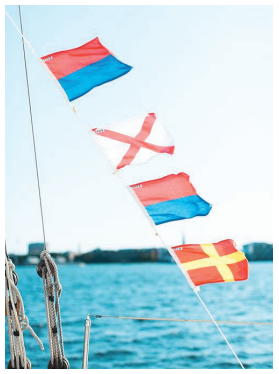
Bob Greene, *retired journalist, Maine historian, and Black cultural leader*

Seth Goldstein, *Executive Director, Cushing's Point Museum, Director of Development, South Portland Historical Society*

James Francis, Sr., *Tribal Historian and Director of Cultural and Historic Preservation for the Penobscot Nation*

What's New in the Museum Store

Shopping in our store is not only a great way to support our mission, we also strive to bring our visitors and members the kinds of high-quality and unique goods they expect. Here are a few of our new favorites, available in person and online. Members receive 10% off!



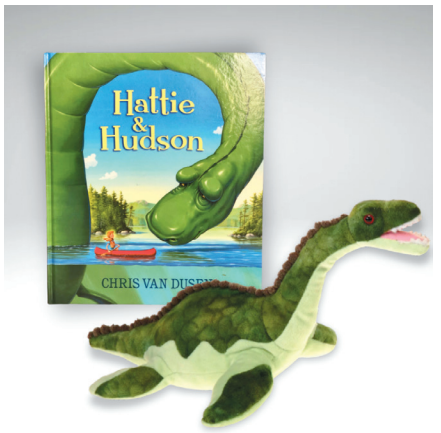
Nautical Signal Flags | Add fun color to your boat, front yard, porch or home. There are 26 rectangular nautical flags, each representing the international code word connected to a letter of the alphabet, such as Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, etc.; plus an ampersand (&) for stringing names and initials together. Each poly-blend 10" x 15" flag includes a wooden toggle button and cordage loop for easy hanging and stringing names & initials together.

***Into the Lantern* Stoneware Mug** | One of our newest mugs, this made-in-the-USA beauty celebrates *Into the Lantern: A Lighthouse Experience*, a perennial favorite permanent exhibit for all you lighthouse lovers our there. Glaze patterns will vary.

Bath Iron Works Long Sleeve T-Shirt | Everyone knows "Bath Built is Best Built," now you can wear your BIW pride on your sleeve—literally—with this new navy long-sleeve tee, made with 100% cotton.

Tray: Lobstering at Nubble | This tray, one of many varieties we carry, features a print by Maine artist Alan Claude of a working lobster boat with the Cape Neddick Nubble Lighthouse in the background. He is known for his Lighthouse Collection Series which honors these national historic treasures. This 16" x 12" tray is handcrafted from birch wood veneer, sourced from certified sustainable forests. They are sealed with transparent matte melamine on both sides, ensuring ease of care.

***Hattie & Hudson* by Chris Van Dusen with a Plesiosauria Stuffie** | In conjunction with our current exhibit, *Upon That Isle in Maine: The Story & Works of Chris Van Dusen,* here is *Hattie & Hudson* with the same Plesiosauria stuffed animal that Van Dusen himself used for inspiration when drawing Hudson! *Hattie & Hudson* is a story about what happens when a magical creature rises from the lake to meet a little friend paddling in her canoe.



Win this Boat!

This year's sweepstakes boat is a beautifully constructed Five Islands Skiff, design circa 1910. Originally built for near-island commuting in Georgetown, we decided to reproduce a slightly larger version of the skiff in our watercraft collection. Primarily built by Boatshop volunteers Thomas Belknap and Josh Hamilton (with ancillary help from additional Boatshop staff and volunteers), the utilitarian aesthetic was reimagined as an elegant water taxi, including lots of brightwork, cherry and mahogany seats, and a varnished sheer plank. This piece of Maine coastal history, and perhaps the first Five Island Skiff to be built in over 50 years, could be yours for only $10!

Join or Renew Your Membership online or complete and mail this form.

Please indicate Membership level:

☐ Individual $60 ☐ Dual $100 ☐ Sustaining $150 ☐ **This is a gift membership**
☐ Patron $250 ☐ Shipwright $500 ☐ Downeaster $1,000

NAME

STREET CITY STATE ZIP

TEL EMAIL

Please charge my membership on ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Amex

CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE & CVV CARDHOLDER'S SIGNATURE

I have also enclosed $_____as a contribution to help support the museum.

Please make check payable to Maine Maritime Museum and return to: 243 Washington Street, Bath, ME 04530
Dues and other contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.